

I thank both chairmen. Thank you so much for allowing me to put forward this resolution and to pass it today on the House floor.

Mr. Chairman, as a member of both the Homeland Security Committee and the Armed Forces Committee here in the House of Representatives, I introduced this resolution on the 1-week anniversary of the tragic events that occurred off our coast of California. Let me remind you where this occurred was maybe, at the most, an hour's drive from where I live.

On Thursday, October 29, the Federal Aviation Administration reported that a Coast Guard C-130 plane and a Marine Corps AH-1W Cobra helicopter crashed off the coast while they were both conducting separate missions. We honor the nine men and women who lost their lives in that crash and we send our condolences to their families and their friends and their loved ones.

As the motto states, "Always Ready," the Coast Guard defends the shores of this great country daily, and we sometimes forget our unsung heroes. Tasked with multiple missions every day, the Coast Guard relies on its skills and the expertise of the personnel to stop drug runners, to perform search and rescue operations, and to secure our ports and our waterways.

It saddens me that we lost seven of these brave men and women last week while on duty as they were conducting a search and rescue effort. In addition, the two Marine Corps pilots that lost their lives fully lived their Corps motto of "Always Faithful." Their sacrifice while on a military training exercise off the coast of California echoes the sacrifice and the risk that all our men and women in uniform face in the armed services.

Both the Coast Guard and the Marine Corps serve globally and, let us not forget, locally to protect our communities and to provide humanitarian aid when it's necessary. We must not forget those sacrifices, their missions, and that at any time anything can go wrong. And we must always remember those that we have lost during their time of service.

I know the Coast Guard had a memorial service Friday in Sacramento which, unfortunately, I was unable to go to, but I felt that it was important to introduce this resolution at this time to honor those that died. These brave individuals fulfilled their commitment to serve and to defend the United States at any cost. Of course, they sacrificed and gave the biggest cost, so our eternal gratitude and respect go to them.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring these brave individuals by supporting this resolution.